In the Specification:

Page 1, above line 1, insert --TITLE--; line 2, insert --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 3, line 6, insert --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 7, line 28, insert --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 8, line 6, insert --DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT--.

In the Claims:

Please amend original claims 1-12 as follows:

1. (Amended) An electrochromic element with an electrochromic arrangement enclosed between two plane substrates, which comprises at least two electrode layers, one electrochromic layer, one ion storage layer, and one polymer electrolyte layer formed in situ, where the polymer electrolyte layer adjoins a sealing element at the edge of the electrochromic element, wherein the sealing element comprises a plastically deformable liquid impermeable adhesive strip of a polyacrylate, arranged between the two plane substrates and adjoining directly the polymer electrolyte layer, as well as of a sealing strand adjacent thereto on the outside, comprising a gas impermeable sealant chemically compatible with the adhesive strip.

2. (Amended) An electrochromic element according to Claim 1, wherein the adhesive strip is formed of a polyacrylate tape.

3. (Amended) An electrochromic element according to Claim 1, wherein the adhesive strip possesses a width of at least 5 mm.

4. (Amended) An electrochromic element according to Claim 3, wherein the adhesive strip possesses a maximum width of 20 mm.

5. (Amended) An electrochromic element according to Claim 1, wherein the adhesive strip comprises a polyacrylate with a maximum water content of 0.3 weight percent, preferably less than 0.05 weight percent.

A1

6. (Amended) An electrochromic element according to Claim 1, wherein the adhesive strip comprises a polyacrylate with a glass transition temperature below 10°C.

7. (Amended) An electrochromic element according to claim 1, wherein the sealing strand comprises a polyisobutylene or butyl rubber based butyl sealant.

8. (Amended) An electrochromic element according to Claim 7, wherein the sealing strand possesses a specific conductivity of less than $10^{-9}\ \Omega^{-1}\cdot cm^{-1}$, and a water vapor permeability according to DIN 53122-1.2 of less than 0.5 $g\cdot m^{-2}\cdot d^{-1}$.

9. (Amended) An electrochromic element according to Claim 1, wherein the sealing strand comprises an epoxy sealant.

10. (Amended) An electrochromic element according to Claim 9, wherein the sealing strand possesses a specific conductivity of less than 10^{-11} $\Omega^{-1} \cdot cm^{-1}$, and a water vapor permeability according to DIN 53122-1.2 of less than 4.0 $g \cdot m^{-2} \cdot d^{-1}$.

A1

11. (Amended) An electrochromic element according to Claim 1, wherein the sealing strand is adjoined by at least one further sealant strand, in particular one with polysulfide base.

12. (Amended) An electrochromic element according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer electrolyte layer comprises at least one (meth)acrylic ester, at least one plasticizer and at least one polymerization initiator.

Please add the following new claims:

13. An electrochromic element according to Claim 8, wherein the sealing strand possesses a specific conductivity of less than 10^{-11} $\Omega^{-1} \cdot cm^{-1}$.

A2